Tobacco Export

1667. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 26 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to allow foreign direct investment for cultivating international quality tobacco;

(b) the special measures being taken to boost tobacco export; and

(c) whether there are other steps contemplated in the interest of ryots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No change is contemplated in the present practice of not permitting FDI in the tobacco sector.

(b) Government's efforts to boost tobacco exports include participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, organisation of delegations of tobacco traders and exporters to various countries and discussions at bilateral official meetings.

(c) Government, through the Tobacco Board safeguards the interests of the farmers through attempts to maintain a balance between demand and supply in the market through regulation of production, sale of tobacco through auction platforms, assistance in identifying export markets etc.

FDI in real estate sector

1668. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for inviting FDI in real estate sector also;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider doing so in future?